



Great Day Gazette

The crown jewel of the Jersey Shore



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ATLANTIC CITY GETS INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT

HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS

FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Atlantic City Residents and Guests,

Merrrrrrrrrrrry Christmas, Happy Holidays and an early Happy New Year to all! The holiday season is always a favorite of mine, and this season, in particular, has been extra special. We LIVE, We LIT, We OUTSIDE has never been more accurate. The Mayor's Office of Special Events did a phenomenal job putting together our Winter Wonderland Parade, bringing our community together for an afternoon of festive family fun. And 'Tis the Season of Giving. Every morning this month, I walk into City Hall and see the Atlantic County Toys for Kids drop-off box in our lobby full of presents. And the collection box for our gloves and sock donation is full too. It's beautiful to see.

I have many New Year's resolutions as it relates to the City of Atlantic City and you'll get to hear them on January 12th. I will be delivering my State of the City Address during the

Metropolitan Business & Citizens Association Kick-Off Forecast 2023 event at Caesars. Earlier this year, I set a long list of goals for my administration during my 2022 State of the City address. On December 27th, I'm calling a news conference to announce how many of those goals we achieved during the year. Did we meet most of them? Yes. Did meet every single one of them? No, and that's okay. I'm going to have all my directors step up to the podium and go over which goals we got to and which we didn't. If a goal wasn't met, you'll hear why, and when you can expect it to be accomplished. It's all about taking accountability.

Speaking of my directors, they've been taking their departments on team building retreats over the last month as I ask them to do each year at this time. Then, I took them on our directors retreat that was both educational and a true bonding experience. We made sure to have a little fun too! My directors have been doing everything I've asked of them and then some. They deserved a memorable retreat for all their hard work and they got one.

One more time, can we say Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays?!

Thanks for reading our newsletter and remember, it's a GREAT Day Here in the City of Atlantic City.

- Mayor Marty Small, Sr.

THE MOMENT YEARS IN THE MAKING FOR ACPD

RIGHTING THE SHIP AT STANLEY HOLMES

WELCOME TO THE ACFD FLEET ENGINE 2!



FEELING FESTIVE

Back for a second year, the Mayor's Office of Special Events organized the Winter Wonderland Parade through Atlantic City. The parade route included a trip through Tanger Outlets this year, then went down Atlantic Ave to City Hall.

Dozens of groups from the City and County participated as spectators filled the streets to enjoy the show. Mayor Small served as the Grand Marshal. You can read the complete coverage of the Parade [on the Press of AC website](#) and see more photos later in this newsletter.



Donation Drives



City of Atlantic City Multicultural Services and AC Rec organized a collection drive for gloves and socks in the City Hall lobby. Thank you to everyone who donated!

Food Giveaways



The Bangladesh Association of South Jersey sponsored a turkey giveaway at City Hall just before Thanksgiving. The City also hosted a Grab & Go meal event.

Holiday Bazaar



Around a dozen merchants set up shop in the City Hall lobby for the City's Holiday Bazaar. Residents and City employees got a prime chance to check some items off the shopping list.



TOP 25!

The City of Atlantic City has made Travel + Leisure Magazine's List of the 25 Best Christmas Towns in the USA!

The magazine writes, in part, "A casino and boardwalk don't exactly conjure images of plum puddings and carolers, yet travelers appreciate Atlantic City's wild weekend spirit and vivid people-watching around the holidays."





The Atlantic City Police Department program “Shop with a Cop” returned. Over the course of three days, more than 150 Atlantic City children got to pick out holiday gifts at the Walmart store located in Egg Harbor Township.

The Atlantic City Police Department also assembled “Blessing Bags” for the homeless population in what has now become a yearly tradition.



The bags consist of items such as hats, scarves, gloves, socks, toiletries, and food.



Each kid pairs up with an officer and gets \$150 to spend, as well as a \$50 Shoprite gift card to bring back to their family. ACPD Lt. Will Santiago organizes this event each year.

Patrol officers distribute the "Blessing Bags" when they come into contact with someone who they believe needs some assistance.



CHIEF AT LAST



The City of Atlantic City finally has its Chief of Police. James A. Sarkos was publicly sworn in at a ceremony that took place at the Adrian Phillips Ballroom inside Boardwalk Hall. United States Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito administered the oath of office.



A fleet of ten, zero-emission, electric bicycles were delivered to the Atlantic City Police Department

Chief Sarkos has led the ACPD since October 1, 2020 following the retirement of Chief Henry White.

Ocean Wind 1 donated nine e-bikes with Ocean City-based retailer, Pedego, donating one of them to the Atlantic City Police Foundation.

“I am proud of what we have accomplished at the Atlantic City Police Department in the two years that I have served as Interim Officer in Charge and Acting Chief,” said Chief Sarkos. “I am particularly proud of serving the community in various ways over and beyond traditional policing activities. I look forward to continuing to serve the residents and visitors of this great City. It remains my honor to lead the dedicated and courageous Officers of the Atlantic City Police Department.”



Chief Sarkos started his career with the ACPD in 2000.



As of Friday, December 9, the Atlantic City Fire Department is ready to utilize Engine 2 to serve the residents and visitors of Atlantic City.

Engine 2 is the third new apparatus purchased by the ACFD in the last three years. It will be stationed at Station 2 (Indiana and Baltic Avenues).

This gives the ACFD another reliable engine when responding to calls.



MAYOR ORDERS INSPECTIONS AT STANLEY HOLMES VILLAGE



Following resident complaints about the conditions at Stanley Holmes Village, at the request of Mayor Small, the Department of Licensing and Inspection and Health and Human Services conducted inspections at the residential units. Stanley Holmes falls under the Housing Authority.

The City of Atlantic City has no jurisdiction over the Housing Authority, it's run by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

During the initial inspection, from December 7-14, inspectors went into 320 of the 415 units (77-percent). Multiple attempts were made to get into the remaining 95 units, but the city was getting no assistance from the Housing Authority. Residents stated they lacked heat and hot water, among other issues.

“The units all now have heat,” said Director of Licensing and Inspection Dale Finch. “I think our action to force action assisted with getting that accomplished. Some units still had heat issues. There remain concerns with the heating system. Some units had hot water issues too. There were malfunctioning smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Infestation of mice, bed bugs and



roaches were a horrendous problem, and that's just not acceptable. Mold issues too, that has to be addressed. Some stoves and ovens were malfunctioning. A few bathrooms had plumbing issues. If we did an occupancy inspection in these units, not a single one would pass.”

The City has sent the results of the inspection to the Housing Authority and has given the federal agency a notice of violation. The City plans to meet with the Housing Authority on a weekly basis moving forward.



“I want to thank our leadership team that helped my administration gather this data,” said Mayor Small. “They put everything on hold for a week to inspect these units. The numbers show these residents continue to live in inhumane conditions. This is a HUD issue, but we're stepping in because the people at Stanley Holmes don't deserve to live like

this. Nobody deserves to live like this. We need to take action not now, but right now, and that's what we are doing by handing out the violation notices, which will turn into fines if the Housing Authority does not get its act together.”



The City of Atlantic City was proud to host the 107th New Jersey State League of Municipalities Conference, which features meetings, educational sessions and networking from municipalities from across New Jersey. This year's theme was Building for Tomorrow.

During the Conference, Mayor Small made an appearance on Comcast Newsmakers, to discuss Atlantic City's economic development, the ten-year anniversary of Superstorm Sandy and the City's unprecedented work in youth services.



Mayor Small took part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Atlanticare's new Medical Arts Facility. The \$38.3 million facility is all-new construction the regional healthcare system developed with the goal in mind to enhance access to quality care for the Atlantic City community.





Swish!

It was standing room only at the City of Atlantic City's first Three-Point Shootout Contest at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Complex, presented by AC Rec. The crowd was loud and vocal all night long as they cheered on some of the sharpest shooters in the City.



Congratulations to the winner Lamar Thomas and AC Rec legend Lloyd Barksdale, who was honored.



From a 76ers game in Philadelphia, to Adventure Aquarium and the Battleship New Jersey in Camden, to movies, bowling and skating trips closer to home, the City of Atlantic City Youth Services Division has been on a roll during the Fall giving City kids plenty to do!

This is all on top of their regular ACYS University, consisting of a college-like curriculum of activities from cooking to mentoring to even a journey to the moon.

We can't wait to see what's in store for our youth in 2023!



The seniors have been just as busy as the youth, courtesy of the Atlantic City Senior Services Division. Seniors got to enjoy candle-making classes and got haircuts and manicures, all for FREE. They saw a musical in New York, and capped it all off with the Senior Services Gala!

Months in the making, the Atlantic City Infrastructure Program is now underway. Students showed up eager to learn for this 14-week program that gives Atlantic City residents the chance to develop careers in the energy field.



City of Atlantic City employees got the chance to take an important "Save a Life" Narcan Training. Participants learned how to administer nasal Narcan and were given free Narcan kits at the end.



The Mayor's Office of LGBT Affairs put together an event to recognize Transgender Awareness Day. Mayor Small presented the 2nd annual Atlantic City Transgender Empowerment Award to Seng Cox.

Can We Say Great Day and Happy Holidays?!



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